

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/617,131	KAMIJIMA, AKIFUMI
	Examiner Anita K. Alanko	Art Unit 1765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 6/27/05 election, telephone interview 10/11/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-15.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/11/03
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 0905.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Yong Choi on September 16, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 6 (Presently amended). A method of manufacturing a thin film magnetic head according to [[claim 4]] claim 5, wherein a thin film coil for generating a signal magnetic field for performing magnetic recording is formed by using the step of forming the conductive thin film pattern.

Claim 7 (Presently amended). A method of manufacturing a thin film magnetic head according to [[claim 4]] claim 5, wherein a wiring pattern functioning as a conductive lead is formed by using the step of forming the conductive thin film pattern.

Cancel claims 11 and 16.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or suggest a method of forming a conductive thin film pattern, comprising:
a first step of forming an underfilm made of a conductor on a substrate;

a second step of selectively forming a first resist frame on the underfilm;

a third step of forming a first conductive layer pattern by selective plating growth using the first resist frame as a mask and using the underfilm as an electrode film;

a fourth step of forming an intermediate conductive layer so as to cover the first resist frame and the first conductive layer pattern;

a fifth step of forming a second resist frame on the intermediate conductive layer in a position corresponding to the first resist frame;

a sixth step of forming a second conductive layer pattern by selective plating growth using the second resist frame as a mask and using the intermediate conductive layer as an electrode film; and

a seventh step of completing formation of the conductive thin film pattern by removing the first and second resist frames, the intermediate conductive layer in a position sandwiched by the resist frames, and the underfilm, as in the context of claim 1.

The closest prior art, JP 09-073608, discloses a method with a second resist frame on an intermediate conductive layer, which is in turn on a first resist frame. However, JP 09-073608 does not disclose to form a first conductive layer on the underfilm and using the first resist frame, and then forming an intermediate conductive layer to cover the first conductive layer pattern, as in the context of claim 1. There is no motivation to add these extra steps to the method of JP 09-073608.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita K. Alanko whose telephone number is 571-272-1458. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri until 2:30 pm (Wed until 11:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on 571-272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Anita K. Alanko
Anita K Alanko
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1765